

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 IO-12 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 AF-10 EB-11 NIC-01 RSR-01

/139 W

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R 140922 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4792

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0914

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF RO

SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU AND MIDEAST

1. SUMMARY: CEAUSESCU APPEARS TO HAVE PLANNED TRIP TO MIDEAST MARCH 14 BUT VISIT CANCELLED FOR REASONS THAT ARE NOT CLEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SEEKING INTERVIEW WITH CEAUSESCU, BELGRADE- BASED TIME CORRESPONDENT WAS INFORMED BY MFA PRESS DIRECTORATE OFFICIALS DURING WEEK OF MARCH 5 THAT, SHOULD A MEETING BE POSSIBLE, IT WOULD HAVE TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE MARCH 14 BECAUSE CEAUSESCU WOULD BE LEAVING ROMANIA ON THAT DATE ON AN AS YET UNANNOUNCED TRIP " TO A COUNTRY OUTSIDE EUROPE."

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3. BRITISH EMBASSY HAS HEARD FROM RELIABLE ROMANIAN JOURNALIST THAT CEAUSESCU HAD INTENDED TRAVEL TO MIDEAST ON MARCH 14, BUT THAT TRIP HAD BEEN PUT OFF FOR REASON NOT KNOWN TO HIM. SAME JOURNALIST SAID THAT CENTRAL PRESS HAD PREPARED ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION MARCH 4 DECRYING KHARTOUM MURDERS BY PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS, BUT THAT THESE STORIES WERE ORDERED STOPPED. SOURCE SURMISED THAT DECISION WAS TAKEN NOT TO OFFEND ARABS ON EVE OF CEAUSESCU VISIT.

4. ALTHOUGH CAIRO NOT MENTIONED, WE BELIEVE EGYPT MOST LIKELY COUNTRY FOR CEAUSESCU VISIT GIVEN ROMANIAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN AREA. THIS IS SUBSTANTIATED BY UNUSUALLY HIGH- LEVEL ROMANIAN DELEGATION WHICH ARRIVED CAIRO MARCH 9 TO PARTICIPATE IN ROMANIAN- EGYPTIAN MIXED ECONOMIC COMMISSION TALKS. ROMANIAN SIDE USUALLY REPRESENTED BY FOREIGN TRARI MINISTER (BURTICA IN PAST AND CURRENTLY PATAN); HOWEVER CURRENT TALKS HEADED BY PRESIDUM MEMBER GHEORGHE BADULESCU WHO NORMALLY DEALS WITH COMECON AND CHINESE AFFAIRS.

5. COMMENT: IF CEAUSESCU HAD INTENDED VISIT CAIRO, PURPOSE MAY HAVE BEEN AS MUCH (IF NOT MORE) ECONOMIC AS POLITICAL. PRECEDING WEEK' S VISIT TO PRAGUE APPEARED MOTIVATED IN GREAT MEASURE BY NEED TO SECURE ADDITIONAL FIRM EXPORT MARKETS REQUIRED FOR EARLY ECONOMIC PLAN FULFILLMENT. EMPHASIS OF REPORTING ON RADULESCU' S CAIRO VISIT SUGGESTS SIMILAR INTEREST IN INCREASING EGYPTIAN COMMITMENT FOR ROMANIAN PRODUCTS.

MEEKER

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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